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(54) Title: PATENT-RELATED TOOLS AND METHODOLOGY FOR USE IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

R&D TOOLS MAP

| | | | R&D STAGES | | | | PORTFOLIO |
|-----|------------------------------|---|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| | | | IDEA | ASSESSMENT | FEASIBILITY | DEVELOPMENT | SCALE-UP |
| 202 | TOPOGRAPHIC MAP | OVERALL VIEW OF RELATED ART, USES, COMPETITORS | 1 | 10 | 21 | 33 | |
| 204 | TOP COMPANY TABLE | RANKED LIST OF COMPANIES | 2 | | | | |
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| 210 | FEATURES GROUPING | OVERALL VIEW OF FEATURE SET TO OFFER | 5 | 12 | 23 | 34 | |
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| 214 | SIC CLASSIFICATION | WHICH MARKET SEGMENTS CAN USE THE PRODUCT/SERVICES | 7 | 14 | 25 | 36 | |
| 216 | PATENT COUNT/YEAR | HOW FAST IS PRODUCT/USE TECHNOLOGY CHANGING | 8 | | | | |
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| 220 | APPLICATION COUNT/YEAR | WHICH OTHER COMPANIES ARE ACTIVE IN PRODUCT AREA | 10 | 16 | 27 | 38 | 46 |
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| 230 | PATENT, MONTHS TO ISSUE | HOW LONG IS TYPICAL COMPANY & PATENT OFFICE CYCLE TIME PER FIELD | | | 31 | 42 | 49 |
| 232 | DOCUMENT/ANNOTATION | IMMEDIATE, LINKED, SEARCHABLE DOCUMENTATION OF FACTS AND IDEAS | 14 | 20 | 32 | 43 | 50 |

(57) Abstract: The present invention is related to patent-related tools, and methodologies involving those tools, for assisting in all stages of research and development (R & D) projects. IPAM server may be used in conjunction with the tools and methodology to aid in R & D projects. The IPAM server can also be used as a support tool for independent inventors. These tools or methods include, but are not limited to, a topographic map, a top company table, a top inventor table, an inventors by company table, a features grouping, a technology classification, a Standard Industrial Codes (SIC) classification, a patent count per year chart, a patent count per year chart, an application count per year chart, a technology by company map, a patent citation tree, a nested patent citation tree, a product/patent/revenue table, a patent/months to issue chart, and a document/annotation chart.



Previous Corrections:

see PCT Gazette No. 16/2001 of 19 April 2001, Section II
see PCT Gazette No. 06/2001 of 8 February 2001, Section
II

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/09382

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F17/60 G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

* & * document member of the same patent family

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